



United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service

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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

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Brian Meyerhoefer

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Genesee River Experiment

Emily and Dawn Dittman (USGS-Tunison Lab) collected five lake sturgeon in the Genesee River (11/4-6) representing recaptured fish from the original stocking in September 2003. The fish appear to be staying in the lower Genesee River near Seth Green Island where they were stocked. Sampling in spring and summer 2004 will determine overwinter survival, habitat use, and contaminant uptake.

GREAT LAKES BASIN ECOSYSTEM TEAM (GLBET)

Emily and Chris attended the GLBET meeting in Chicago, IL (11/19-20). As chair of the Lake

Sturgeon Committee, Emily reported on committee activities and plans for 2004.

Several new initiatives were discussed including coastal habitat restoration, migratory birds, endangered species, urban wildlife, and invasive species. Mike G. volunteered to be the new chair for the invasive species committee and participated in the meeting via web conference and conference call. Mike has started establishing membership and developing ideas for the committee.

LAKE ONTARIO

Great Lakes Restoration Planning Meeting

Emily attended a meeting of stakeholders interested in restoration of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie (11/17), hosted by NY Sea Grant. Its purpose was to allow networking and inform the stakeholders of their restoration activities. This information will be used to make recommendations to the Great Lakes Commission and the Council of Great Lakes Governors regarding priorities for Great Lakes restoration planning.

Mike W. and Barron attended a regional meeting of the newly-formed "Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative" (LOCI), held in Albion, New York (11/14). The one-day workshop brought together management agencies, universities, private citizens, and other stakeholder groups with a common interest in protecting and restoring the coastal and nearshore zone along the New York coastline of Lake Ontario. Follow-up workshops will be planned to implement a means to fund research and restoration projects, and identify common needs and priorities.

LAKE ERIE

Mike W. attended a meeting of the Lake Erie

Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Technical Working Group in Windsor, Ontario (11/18-19). The agenda included updates on current water quality and watershed “loadings” data, and other Lake Erie-specific biological issues. The group moved forward on finalizing recommendations for approval by the LaMP Management Committee and final implementation into the LaMP document. In addition, Mike compiled and provided the committee with a CD-ROM containing USFWS photos of Lake Erie field activities and flora and fauna for use in designing the final LaMP document and other outreach materials.

NIAGARA RIVER

Emily and Mike W. met with Neil Patterson and Sinuda Hall (11/25) (Tuscarora Environmental Program) to discuss habitat restoration and fisheries restoration topics related to the Niagara River, NYPA relicensing, and the Tuscarora Nation.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Coordination

Mike G. attended the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting in Arlington, VA (11/4-5). The Task Force approved state ANS management plans for Wisconsin, Indiana, and Hawaii. States with approved plans may then receive federal assistance for their ANS activities.

Erie Canal

Mike G. and Gary Smythe (Stantec Consultants) visited locks 20, 21, and 22 along the Erie Canal to assess the possibility of installing an aquatic nuisance species barrier (11/25). This is part of a feasibility study to determine what options are available and the relative efficacy of the different options.

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Mike W., Natalie Brown (Buffalo State College), and Brian Meyerhoefer (volunteer) conducted backpack electrofishing surveys at two locations (one “Disturbed”; one “Control”) along the south branch of Cazenovia Creek in Holland, NY (11/10). The surveys are being conducted to assess the potential effects of stream stabilization and enhancement projects on the resident fish communities in Cazenovia Creek.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mike W. gave a presentation to science students at Tonawanda Senior High School in Tonawanda, New York (11/17). The talk, titled “*Aquatic Ecosystem of the Lower Great Lakes*”, provided an overview of native aquatic flora and fauna, as well as the current management and monitoring activities being conducted by the LGLFRO. In addition to the illustrated lecture, the event included a demonstration of field equipment and survey techniques, and a chance to handle both live and preserved specimens.

Betsy staffed an office display at the Lancaster Public Library Nature Night (11/17). Approximately 80 adults and children visited the display.

OTHER

Barron, Cara, and Mike G. assisted staff at the Allegheny National Fish Hatchery with lake trout spawning activities (11/18).

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.